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BELLAMY VERNELL P 06/11/82 092738 PRINTER: LI
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DRAFTED BY ACDA/CPA:MFMURPHY:JA
APPROVED BY ACDA/CPA:JMPOPE
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
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USINF-
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PARM, SOPN
SUBJECT: MARCH 13 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY T. Heaven DATE 8/31/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE ____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
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1. PHILIP TAUBMAN OF THE N.Y. TIMES REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES SUBMITTED A REPORT DETAILING ITS EVIDENCE FOR ITS ACCUSATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE USED TOXINS AND CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS IN LAOS, CAMBODIA AND AFGHANISTAN. TAUBMAN SAID THAT IN THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS AND THE UNITED NATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT SINCE 1975 MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN NEARLY 400 CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS IN THE THREE COUNTRIES. DEPUTY SECRETARY S.OESSEL WAS QUOTED BY TAUBMAN AS SAYING "THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES ARE FLAGRANTLY AND REPEATEDLY VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND AGREEMENTS. IF THE WORLD FAILS TO HALT THIS ACTIVITY, IT WILL HAVELITTLECHANCE TO PREVENT ITS REPETITION IN OTHER LANDS AGAINST OTHER PEOPLES." TAUBMAN ALSO REPORTED THAT

THE SOVIET UNION, THROUGH ITS OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS, CALLED THE CHARGES "DIRTY LIES" AND SAID, "THE WORLD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THAT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHEMICAL AGENTS WERE DROPPED OVER VIETNAM, LOAS AND CAMBODIA IN THE YEARS OF U.S. AGGRESSION IN INDOCHINA."

2. KAREN ELLIOTT HOUSE OF THE WALL ST. JOURNAL SAID "MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE VIOLATING TREATIES BANNING CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE IS CERTAIN TO COMPLICATE FUTURE U.S.-SOVIET TALKS ON STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS." ACCORDING TO HOUSE, "IN RELEASING A REPORT DETAILING SOVIET USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION BLUNTLY UNDERSCOREDITSIMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE U.S.-SOVIET ARMS PACTS." HOUSE QUOTED STATE'S BURT AS SAYING "WE MUST OBVIOUSLY INSIST THAT ANY NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT CONTAIN MEASURES WHICH ENSURE STRICT VERIFICATION, AND GUARANTEE THAT QUESTIONS OF COMPLIANCE ARE DEALT WITH SERIOUSLY."

3. ROBERT C. TOTH OF THE L.A. TIMES REPORTED THAT ROSTOW SAID THE UNITED STATES WILL SOON CARRY INTO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ITS CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET UNION FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE USE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS IN ASIA. TOTH SAID THAT WHILE NOT ADDRESSING THE COMING REPORT SPECIFICALLY, ROSTOW DISCLOSED THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THE UNITED STATES WILL ASK THE SOVIETS TO ANSWER THE NEW CHARGES, BUT EXPECTING THE SAME "SCORNFUL REJECTION" AS IN THE PAST, HE SAID, "WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GO PUBLIC, EITHER THROUGH THE (U.N.) SECURITY COUNCIL OR A MEETING OF THE STATES THAT ARE PARTIES TO THE 1925 CONVENTION (BARRING CHEMICAL WARFARE), OR BOTH, AS MAY BE NECESSARY." ON OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE INTERVIEW, TOTH REPORTED THAT ROSTOW SAID NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN GENEVA IN SOVIET-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCING MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES IN EUROPE. THE MEETINGS WERE RECESSED THIS WEEK FOR TWO MONTHS WITH THE SIDES HAVING PRESENTED DRAFT AGREEMENTS THAT ARE FAR APART. TOTH NOTED). NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS, SAID ROSTOW, ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN THE SUMMER. A U.S. GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR THESE TALKS IS EXPECTED TO BE REACHED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.

4. WILLIAM BEECHER OF THE BOSTON GLOBE REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, IT IS LIKELY THAT PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN WILL ANNOUNCE NO LATER THAN JUNE HIS READINESS TO BEGIN STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TALKS. (ACCORDING TO BEECHER, WELL-PLACED SOURCES SAY RANKING SOVIET DIPLOMATS CONTINUE TO PRESS PRIVATELY FOR AN EARLY START FOR THE TALKS, WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT IF AILING SOVIET PRESIDENT LENOID BREZHNEV SHOULD SUDDENLY DIE, IT WOULD BE WISE TO HAVE THE PROCESS UNDER WAY SO A FURTHER DELAY WILL NOT BE OCCASIONED BY A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP IN

MOSCOW.) ONE OPTION THAT IS GAINING SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY AT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, SAID BEECHER, WOULD SEEK TO NEGOTIATE A PHASEDOWN OF STRATEGIC MISSILE WARHEADS TO A

TOTAL OF 4000 TO 5000 ON EACH SIDE OVER FIVE TO 10 YEARS. THIS OPTION, BEECHER OBSERVED, WOULD ALSO CALL FOR AN OVERALL CEILING ON MISSILE THROW WEIGHT OR PAYLOAD, WITH EACH SIDE FREE TO CHOSE WHATEVER MIX ITS WISHES BETWEEN ICBMS AND SLBMS AND BIG AND LITTLE MISSILES. BEECHER ALSO REPORTED THAT A SEPARATE TREATY WOULD CALL FOR EQUAL NUMBERS OF STRATEGIC BOMBERS, AVOIDING THE PROBLEM OF TRYING TO FIND A FORMULA THAT SEEKS TO EQUATE THE VERY DIFFERENT KINDS OF CAPABILITIES OF MISSILES AND BOMBERS.

5. TRACY EARLY OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED THAT AN 11-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM PEACE GROUPS THAT SPONSORED MASS DISARMAMENT RALLIES IN WESTERN EUROPE LAST FALL ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES FOR A TWO-WEEK SPEAKING TOUR. EARLY SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP, THE "US-EUROPEACE TOUR" IS INTENDED TO FORGE "STRONGER LINKS" BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT MOVEMENTS - AND TO BUILD MOMENTUM FOR A MASS RALLY TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK JUNE 12, IN CONNECTION WITH THE UN DISARMAMENT SESSION. A STATEMENT ISSUED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WAS QUOTED BY EARLY AS SAYING "WE CANNOT ANY LONGER WAIT PASSIVELY FOR THE RESULTS OF SUCH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE STARTED TO CALL ON OUR OWN GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE INDEPENDENT STEPS TO REDUCE AND REMOVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

6. HENRY SCOTT STOKES OF THE N.Y. TIMES REPORTED FROM TOKYO THATACROWD ESTIMATED BY THE POLICE AT 95,000 GATHERED SUNDAY IN HIROSHIMA TO CALL FOR A HALT TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND FOR THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. STOKES OBSERVED THAT ORGANIZERS OF THE RALLY SAY THEY PLAN TO HAVE MORE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE SUMMER, AND THEY HAVE BEGUN A CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT 30 MILLION SIGNATURES FOR AN

APPEAL AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE UNITED NATIONS SESSION ON DISARMAMENT THIS SUMMER.

7. HEDRICK SMITH OF THE N.Y. TIMES REPORTED THAT BRZEZINSKI URGED PRESIDENT REAGAN TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVES TO RALLY THE WEST BY PROPOSING STEPS TO "REDUCE THE LEVEL OF EAST-WEST MILITARY CONFRONTATION" IN EUROPE AND BY OFFERING "A POSITIVE CARROT" OF RENEWED WESTERN ECONOMIC AID FOR POLAND AS AN INDUCEMENT FOR WARSAW TO END MARTIAL LAW. SMITH SAID BRZEZINSKI ARGUED THAT "THE TIME HAS COME FOR REAGAN TO BEGIN A MAJOR POLITICAL INITIATIVE" TO HALT THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES

CAUSED BY POLICY DIFFERENCES OVER THE MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL AMERICA AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS. BRZEZINSKI WAS QUOTED BY SMITH AS SAYING "WE HAVE TO SET IN MOTION A PROCESS," HE ASSERTED, "TO CONVINCE THE EUROPEANS THAT WE HAVE A SENSE OF DIRECTION. THAT REQUIRES SOME SIMPLE FIRST STEP." HAIG